

2016 Retreat at Launde Abbey



This weekend (Sept 2nd to 4th) has seen me complete a number of firsts....

My first visit to Launde Abbey.
My first Retreat as a Reader.
The first time I met a few other Readers serving in the diocese.

I make no excuse for the last sentence. Having witnessed the sea of blue scarves at the cathedral last October, it was somewhat disappointing that the number at Launde could be counted without using both hands and feet. That said, the weekend itself was an opportunity to refresh, renew and rejuvenate ourselves spiritually – creative repair – and you didn't need to be handy with a paint brush or sewing needle to be fully involved.

Guided by Revd Anne Holmes, we explored our own story, how we were / can be creative, who encouraged us and what gets in our way. No one in ministry should feel guilty about taking time out and creativity can bring us closer to God at the times we might be seeking his voice.

We considered what nourishes us as well as what drains us and worked in small groups (usually 2/3 people) before feeding back to the group as a whole, all on a voluntary basis so no-one was pressured.



There was also time to 'play' with free time to walk, the opportunity to try something new, to create or just to be.....

By the time the weekend came to a close a knitted blanket, some cross stitch , a couple of paintings, memories and yes – even a sermon, were all created as we embraced the opportunity for some much needed repair.

The usual programme of morning and evening prayer was completed on Sunday as Revd Anne presided over the Eucharist, the created work offered to God and hymns of praise sent heavenward.

I only hope next year will see more taking the opportunity to come together with like minded people to share and support each other as Lincoln Readers.

Marion Hewis

Gallery:

